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GULL
BULLETIN

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October 1968

Number 10



Great Gray Owl with owlets, Yosemite National Park.

— Photo by A. Warren Larson

WARREN LARSON'S "GREAT GRAY OWL" ON OCT. 10

Golden Gate Audubon Director A. Warren Larson will present a revised and expanded version of his movie "The Great Gray Owl" at the Audubon meeting **Thursday, October 10, at 7:30 p.m.** in San Francisco's Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park. Mr Larson photographed a family of Great Gray Owls in their natural habitat in Yosemite National Park.

The Hall of Flowers is on Ninth Ave. at Lincoln at the edge of Golden Gate Park. Visitors are welcome.—MRS. PHYLLIS ZWEIGART, *Program Chairman*.

FIELD TRIPS FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

Saturday, October 5, Monterey boat trip. (Reservations closed in September.)

Sunday, October 6, three half-day land trips scheduled by Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society:

(1) *Pacific Grove Shoreline*. Meet at Lover's Point parking area at **8 a.m.** Will include Greenwood Park, Crespi Pond and Pt. Pinos, Asilomar Beaches for land and shorebirds.

(2) *Moss Landing-Salinas River Mouth*. Meet on Jetty Rd. ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of bridge over Elkhorn Slough) at **9 a.m.** for shorebirds.

(3) *Point Lobos State Reserve*. Meet at Reserve Entrance at **9 a.m.** There is a small entrance fee. Land and shorebirds and Sea Otters.

Saturday, October 19, Point Reyes Peninsula—two separate trips, both starting from Point Reyes National Seashore Park Headquarters, Olema, Marin County, at **8 a.m.** (1) Bird study in various habitats, including the RCA overseas communications property, for which we have special permission to visit on this day. (2) A leisurely 9-mile round trip hike on Bear Valley trail through Douglas fir forest to the rugged coast where land and sea birds can be observed. Bring knapsack lunch. Allow 1 hour and 20 minutes' driving time from Golden Gate Bridge. Leaders: Dr. A. Laurence Curl, 526-7004, El Cerrito, and Miss Patrieia Triggs, 664-8502, San Francisco.

Saturday, November 2, Palo Alto Salt Marsh to study waterfowl and shorebirds. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the duck pond near the Palo Alto Yacht harbor. Take Embarcadero Road East off Bayshore Freeway 101. The fauna and flora of this area are described in *Exploring Our Baylands* by Diane Conradson, a \$2 paperback published by the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, 725 University Ave., Palo Alto, 94301. Leader, Ted Chandik, 327-4575, Palo Alto.

Saturday, November 16, a morning trip to Lake Merritt for beginners. Details will appear in the November *Gull*.

Suggested areas to visit beginning in early November and throughout the winter: California Wildlife Refuges to observe ducks, geese and swans; for shorebirds—unpolluted marshes around the bay area; resident and wintering land birds should be looked for in neighborhood and regional parks. Additional information will be in the November *Gull*.

—MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*



Yellow-crowned Night Heron, San Rafael, 7-30-68.

—Photo by Hans Johansen

(First Northern California record)

"FOUR SEASONS" IN BERKELEY OCTOBER 2

Wilfred E. Gray's *Four Seasons* will open the 18th season of Audubon Wildlife Films **Wednesday, October 2, at 8:15 p.m.** in the Garfield School Auditorium, Rose St. at Grant, Berkeley.

Four Seasons is a portrait of a year in British Columbia, beginning with spring on the coast and ending with winter among the snow-embossed peaks of the Canadian Rockies. Red-necked Grebes, Snow Geese, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Sockeye Salmon, bear, deer and a host of other wildlife residents and visitors are shown in colorful and dramatic close-up sequences. Wilf Gray has produced documentaries and natural history films in many parts of the world. Several of his films, with sound tracks in German, Dutch, French, and Japanese are currently in distribution abroad through the National Film Board of Canada. Mr. Gray has won many awards in national and international film festivals and is a member of the Institute of British Photographers, the Association of Cinematographers and Television Technicians of Great Britain, and the Canadian Society of Cinematographers.

The second film in October will be the *Vanishing Sea* by Robert W. Davison on **Wednesday, October 30**, when the Great Salt Lake will be the focal point of a fascinating photographic study of life in and around the Great Basin in Western U.S. Among the animals found here are the brine shrimp and pelican, Desert Kit Fox and Kangaroo Rat, Dipper and Western Grebe. Mr. Davison has helped to produce several of the "Wild Kingdom" series on nationwide television, and has made three educational films on the White Pelican.

Season ticket price for 5 Audubon Wildlife Films is \$5 for Audubon members, \$6 for non-members, and \$3 for students under 18. Single admission is \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for students under 18. Children under 12 will be admitted free when accompanied by a parent. Tickets may be purchased at the door after 7:30 p.m. on film nights. All films will be personally narrated by the photographers.—MRS. FRANCES ELLEN FALLGATTER, *Audubon Wildlife Films Chairman*.

PELAGIC TRIP TO FARALLONES OCTOBER 27

Marin Audubon Society has scheduled a boat trip to the Farallon Islands on **Sunday, October 27**. The *Blue Horizon* will leave **promptly at 7 a.m.** from behind the Spinnaker Restaurant in Sausalito and will return about 3 p.m. The fare is \$10 per person. Reservations may be made through Newman Page, 5 Rolling Hills Rd., Tiburon, Calif. 94920, no later than **October 21**. Checks should be made payable to Marin Audubon Society. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for confirmation. Bring lunch, warm clothing, binoculars. Leader, Richard Stallecup.

SIERRA CLUB TRIP TO COYOTE HILLS OCT. 5

The Natural Science Section of the Sierra Club invites Golden Gate Audubon members and friends to tour the Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont on **Saturday, October 5** (as announced in September *Gull*). Ron Russo, Regional Park Naturalist, will lead a walk near the marsh and S.F. Bay, and will discuss the White-tailed Kites, herons, and other wildlife of the park. Meet at **10 a.m.** in the big parking lot several hundred yards south of the SRI Lab. Do not use the SRI Lab parking lot. Bring lunch and water.

AL WOOL'S FILM IN OAKLAND OCT. 16

Al Wool, the Photographer-Rancher-Audubon Member of La Honda, will present his film *Ranching It In California* on **Wednesday, October 16** at **8:15 p.m.** in the Oakland Auditorium Theatre, 10th & Fallon Sts. Many Audubon members have enjoyed the privilege of a field trip on Al Wool's ranch under his personal leadership.

Tickets for this film may be ordered from the office of the Oakland Museum Association, 274 Nineteenth St., Oakland 94612 (893-4257) or may be purchased at the door on the evening of October 16. As part of the Wide World Series, all profits will be used for the acquisitions fund of the Natural Science Division of the new Oakland Museum.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

We happily report real progress toward inclusion of the "Southeast Farallones" in the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge. A recent letter from the Portland Regional Office of the U.S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife advised us that Secretary Udall had approved the Bureau's request for such a withdrawal, subject to continued use by the Coast Guard. The State Director of the Bureau of Land Management at Sacramento at this writing (August 8th) was considering this application. Meanwhile, the Point Reyes Bird Observatory staffers trapping and banding on the Southeast Farallon from April into October this year, with assistance from the Coast Guard and Lighthouse personnel, are accumulating facts and records which will make history in Pacific Coast ornithology.

The California Sea Otter continues to bask in public interest and sympathy—as well as among its protective kelp. A new alarm has been sounded by otter-protectors over the possibility of some of our precious otter being poached and smuggled into the periodic fur sales of Alaskan otter pelts on New York or Seattle fur markets. A California Dept. of Fish and Game spokesman says illicit trading is extremely unlikely, due to the registration of the Alaskan hides. The penalty for any smuggler caught attempting such a substitution would be extremely severe.

There is a growing conflict, however, between commercial abalone fishermen and our otter population. An experimental trapping and relocation of 20 otters is being tried by the Dept. of Fish and Game. Certain areas along our North Coast could accommodate otters without such conflicts.*

Fewer ducks may animate your favorite bay, lake or marsh this winter—and hunters' tables—according to mid-summer surveys of nesting success across the Canadian prairies. Reason: more acute droughts in the "duck bowl."

As if Whooping Cranes didn't suffer enough—the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission gave permission—without hearings—for shell dredgers to work over feeding bottoms adjacent to Aransas Refuge and Matagorda Isle!—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

*An organization to help protect the Sea Otters has been formed by Mrs. Margaret Owings. For information write to "Friends of the Sea Otters" Big Sur, Calif. 93920.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES NEEDED ON SOUTH BAY

Establishment of National Wildlife Refuges on South San Francisco Bayland is being urged by the So. S.F. Baylands Planning, Conservation, and National Wildlife Refuge Committee. In a letter to other conservation organizations the Committee says we can help by informing relatives and friends that there should be a National Wildlife Refuge in the Alviso-Drawbridge area of Santa Clara and Alameda Counties and that they should write the above Committee c/o Santa Clara County Planning Dept., 70 West Hedding St., San Jose, CA 95110 stating that refuge lands must be set aside. These lands are vital for feeding, resting, and for improved nesting areas for migratory waterfowl, other migratory birds, and indigenous

birds, small animals, Harbor Seals, and fish. There will be a crucial period before October 15 or November 1 when conservationists' views will have to be presented to the various city and county governments involved. Arthur L. Ogilvie, the Committee's Recording Secretary, writes that establishment of refuges in San Mateo County and other parts of Alameda County is also supported.

OBSERVATIONS

Aug. 3—a dead *Thick-billed Murre* on beach at Rodeo Lagoon.

Aug. 10—*Three Baird's Sandpipers* feeding with Least Sandpipers at Rodeo Lagoon.

Aug. 13—The Baird's and Least Sandpipers had now been joined by Western Sandpipers—an excellent comparison observation. Above the lagoon at Point Bonita an adult *Magnificent Frigatebird* flew over my head and continued East over the Golden Gate Bridge without flapping its wings.

Aug. 21—Due to a storm in the northwest a few days earlier, high water had brought havoc to Rodeo Lagoon. Sea water was running into the large lagoon and the few mudflats there had disappeared. Shorebirds were flying around endlessly looking for a place to settle. A *Marbled Murrelet* in summer plumage was feeding just a few yards off shore. On the same day I found a Marbled Murrelet mired in sand and debris on a freshly formed lagoon behind the beach at Bodega Bay. After donning boots I was able to reach the bird and release it from its imprisoned position and it quickly swam away. A few days later Ted Chandik saw 25 Marbled Murrelets at Pigeon Point.

The warbler migration at Rodeo Lagoon started Aug. 3 with a Hermit Warbler. On Aug. 13, many Wilson's, a single Orange-crowned and a Yellow Warbler had gathered on a dead shrub around the small lagoon. By Aug. 17 Nashville and another Hermit Warbler appeared. On Aug. 18, after searching carefully, I found only a single Black-throated Gray Warbler. MacGillivray's Warblers were present on Aug. 21, but other than a few Wilson's Warblers, migration had fallen off sharply during the next ten days.

From Southern California Guy McCaskie writes of many unusual sightings: July 27, on an overnight boat trip off San Diego, nine Red-billed Tropicbirds were observed sitting on the water at the south end of San Clemente Island. Guy believes there is a possibility that the birds nested there. Landing is prohibited. On this day a destroyer was lobbing heavy artillery onto the island. At the Salton Sea, Black Skimmers, Magnificent Frigatebird, and a dead Blue-footed Booby found on a nearby desert. In other areas there were Chimney Swifts, Whip-poor-wills, Wood Thrush, Kentucky and Connecticut Warblers and many other birds too numerous to mention. Are more and more birds straggling off their regular migratory routes or are there more birders around to observe them? This reminds me that we need *more observers and also talliers* for the forthcoming Christmas counts. The dates—Dec. 28, Tomales Bay count; Dec. 29, Drake's Bay count; Jan. 1, Oakland count. Please contact Raymond Higgs,

3501 Fillmore St., San Francisco 94123, if you can participate. Raymond Higgs also needs much help on OPERATION SEAWATCH at Point Reyes Bird Observatory.—MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS received by *The Gull*:—In late August the *Yellow-crowned Night Heron* and the adult *Little Blue Heron* were still on the San Rafael waterfront. Hans Johansen photographed the former in color. On September 2 at 11 a.m. Hans Johansen photographed a *Stilt Sandpiper* at Bodega Bay near Doran Park. He also observed two Golden Plovers at Bodega Bay. Bill Pursell found *four Baird's Sandpipers* with the Western Sandpipers on the Bay side of Coyote Hills Regional Park September 3.

For White-winged Crossbills singing and Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers foraging, try Manning Provincial Park, B.C., in summer—ED.

NATIONAL AUDUBON DEDICATES WESTERN HEADQUARTERS

National Audubon Society Board Members and Staff will be in Sacramento Thursday, October 3, for the dedication of the new western headquarters on Audubon Way. Paul Howard, our new Western Representative, will open his office in the recently completed building, which is located on a two-acre site at 555 Audubon Way.

THE GULL BULLETIN BOARD

A Golden Gate Audubon member, Sylvia (Mrs. Donald) McLaughlin, is running for the Board of Directors of East Bay Regional Parks for the District of Berkeley, Albany, Orinda, Emeryville. Mrs. McLaughlin is the Secretary of the Save San Francisco Bay Association.

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Extra copies of the July-August issue of *The Gull* are needed. If you have an extra copy, please send it to Miss Mary Jefferds, National Audubon Society, 2389 Oregon St., Berkeley CA 94705.

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Members interested in helping organize an informal group for weekly walks in Golden Gate Park to study birds and plants, please write to Mrs. Elizabeth G. Burger, 150 Green St., San Francisco 94111.

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Sunday afternoon, **October 27**, Oakland Park Naturalist Paul Covel will give a demonstration and slide talk on *Tools of Bird Trades* in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, at 2:30 p.m., and Warren Larson will present his new film *Nesting Activities of the White-tailed Kite* at 4:15 p.m.

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Native Shrubs of the San Francisco Bay Region is the title of a new paperback published by the University of California Press. Written by Roxanna Ferris, the book identifies the native shrubs of the Bay region and tells where they are found. Eight pages of colored photographs and 106 line drawings are included. It may be ordered from the U.C. Press, 2223 Fulton, Berkeley, CA 94720, for \$1.95 plus sales tax.



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GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National \$10 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2 per year. Subscription to THE CYGNET, bulletin for children edited by Mrs. Nickelsburg, \$1 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.